IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1 through 23. (Canceled)

24. (Previously Presented) A method for simultaneously caching content data via multiple channels in an electronic device, comprising:

in response to a user specifically selecting a first channel to watch, allocating the first channel to a tuner;

accessing prioritization data specifying a prioritization of a list of favorite channels associated with the electronic device;

automatically selecting a plurality of favorite channels from the list of favorite channels based on the prioritization data and a number of spare tuners;

automatically assigning the plurality of favorite channels to the number of spare tuners; and

simultaneously caching in a memory content data from the first channel and from the plurality of favorite channels.

25. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 24, wherein the electronic device comprises a set top box.

26. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 24, wherein the content data comprises video data and audio data.

27. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 24, wherein a number of the plurality of favorite channels equals the number of spare tuners.

28. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 24, further comprising displaying the content data from the first channel on a screen coupled to the electronic device.

29. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 24, further comprising displaying the content data from the first channel on a screen coupled to the electronic device in a picture in picture format.

30. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 24, further comprising:

receiving a command signal for switching from the first channel to a channel of the list of favorite channels which is not currently assigned to a tuner; and

de-allocating from the memory content data from the first channel if the first channel is not in the list of favorite channels.

31. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 24, further comprising:

receiving a command signal for switching from the first channel to another channel, wherein the first channel is in the list of favorite channels; and

maintaining content data from the first channel in the memory.

32. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 24, further comprising:

in response to a first tuner becoming a spare tuner, selecting a second channel with a highest priority from the list of favorite channels that are not currently being cached; and

allocating the second channel to the first tuner and caching content data for the second channel.

33. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 24, further comprising:

receiving a request to cache content data for a second channel whose content data is not being cached;

selecting a third channel with a lowest priority from the list of favorite channels that are currently being cached;

de-allocating the third channel from its assigned tuner and allocating the assigned tuner to the second channel; and

caching content data from the second channel.

34. (Previously Presented) An electronic device for simultaneously caching

content data via multiple channels, the electronic device including a processor and a memory which comprises a set of instructions, when executed by the processor, executes a method comprising:

in response to a user specifically selecting a first channel to watch, allocating the first channel to a tuner;

accessing prioritization data specifying a prioritization of a list of favorite channels associated with the electronic device;

automatically selecting a plurality of favorite channels from the list of favorite channels based on the prioritization data and a number of spare tuners;

automatically assigning the plurality of favorite channels to the number of spare tuners; and

simultaneously caching in the memory content data from the first channel and from the plurality of favorite channels.

35. (Previously Presented) The electronic device of Claim 34, wherein the method further comprises:

receiving a command signal for switching from the first channel to a channel of the list of favorite channels which is not currently assigned to a tuner; and

de-allocating from the memory the content data from the first channel if the first channel is not in the list of favorite channels.

36. (Previously Presented) The electronic device of Claim 34, wherein the method further comprises:

receiving a command signal for switching from the first channel to another channel, wherein the first channel is in the list of favorite channels; and

maintaining content data from the first channel in the memory.

37. (Previously Presented) The electronic device of Claim 34, wherein the method further comprises:

in response to a first tuner becoming a spare tuner, selecting a second channel with a highest priority from the list of favorite channels that are not currently being cached; and

allocating the second channel to the first tuner and caching content data for the second channel.

38. (Previously Presented) The electronic device of Claim 34, wherein the method further comprises:

receiving a request to cache content data for a second channel whose content data is not being cached;

selecting a third channel with a lowest priority from the list of favorite channels that are currently being cached;

de-allocating the third channel from its assigned tuner and allocating the assigned tuner to the second channel; and

caching content data from the second channel.

39. (Currently Amended) An electronic device for simultaneously caching content data via multiple channels, the electronic device including a plurality of tuners, a caching device coupled to the plurality of tuners, a processor, and a memory which comprises a set of instructions, when executed by the processor, executes a method comprising:

selecting a first set of channels in response to viewing requests;

assigning a first set of tuners for the first set of channels;

automatically selecting a second set of channels based on a preconfigured list of favorite channels and a number of spare tuners;

automatically assigning ~~a second set of tuners~~ the number of spare tuners for the second set of channels; and

simultaneously caching content data using the caching device from the first set of channels and the second set of channels.

40. (Previously Presented) The electronic device of Claim 39, wherein channels in the preconfigured list of favorite channels are ordered based on prioritization data.

41. (Previously Presented) The electronic device of Claim 40, further comprising a remote data entry device for communicating the list of favorite channels and the prioritization data.

42. (Previously Presented) The electronic device of Claim 39, wherein the content data from the first set of channels is recorded.

43. (Previously Presented) The electronic device of Claim 39, further comprising a display unit for displaying the content data from the first set of channels in a main screen of the display unit.

44. (Previously Presented) The electronic device of Claim 43, wherein the method further comprises altering a makeup of the first set of channels and the second set of channels in response to a channel change request for the main screen.

45. (Previously Presented) The electronic device of Claim 43, wherein the display unit is operable to display the content data from the first set of channels in a sub-screen of the display unit.

46. (Previously Presented) The electronic device of Claim 40, wherein the method further comprises altering a makeup of the second set of channels in response to a change in the prioritization data.